

repairs of the perineum. There is also a decent-sized sterilising room with two dressing sterilisers and two instrument sterilisers. Two Blood Transfusion sets are always in readiness, also two sets of instruments ready for use with their dressing and linen drums, also a drum specially for Caesareans, so that the patient and everything can be ready in fifteen minutes. All Caesareans are taken to the Main Theatre, accompanied by a Midwife or senior pupil, together with the baby's tray for resuscitation, and are later brought back to the Ward.

The Wards are divided into three cubicles, each holding 12 beds; on the Indian side one cubicle is reserved for Indians, and the remaining beds are for abnormal waiting cases, and ruptured perineums, thus ensuring them special attention.

The Maternity Ward is supposed to take 84 patients, our normal numbers at midnight were more often 120, and have been several times 140. Every available space is packed, even the verandahs, and when beds fail, mattresses are put on the floor, although care is taken to keep a patient on a bed for three days when possible. Normal cases are discharged on the sixth day, others are kept until fit to go; should they insist upon leaving against doctor's orders, the position is carefully explained to them through an interpreter, usually a Nurse, and they have to sign their chart to take full responsibility for their actions.

In the Labour unit there is also a sluice and urine testing room.

There used to be an Isolation Unit which is now occupied by the District Nursing Staff, owing to shortage of accommodation in the Nurses' Home. All the pupil Midwives are Non-Europeans, with several Midwives, the Sister-in-Charge, together with three Sisters on day duty, and the Night Sister are Europeans, and of course, the Medical Officers.

At one time there was only one Medical Officer between the Maternity and Gynaecological Wards; now there is one Senior and three or four Juniors. Medical students from the Rand come for three week's training, usually four together, they do everything, with the exception of sluicing the linen, and are on duty from 9 a.m.—midnight, Sunday excluded. They assist the M.O.'s, taking blood pressures, specimens, giving intravenous injections, and specialising Eclamptics, etc., besides attending Ante-Natal Clinics and their Labour Ward duties. Two Ante-Natal Clinics are held weekly, the average attendances being 150, at times over 200.

The M.O. examines all primipara on their first visit, and all abnormal cases. X-rays are taken of all doubtful cases. Upon the first visit, blood is taken of all patients for Wasserman, and positive reactions are taken over to the Special Clinic for treatment and come to Maternity only for delivery and lying-in.

The deliveries are seldom less than 500 per month, Caesars vary from two to ten or twelve monthly, and there is also usually one Eclamptic and sometimes more a month. Students take from 18–24 normal cases each, and pupil Midwives, Trained Nurses, usually about 50, Untrained usually 100 each. There is no lack of material, and all students and as many pupil midwives as possible, see every abnormal case, together with examinations.

Patients are rarely bathed on admission as so many of them come late in labour, asepsis is the aim, but is usually only achieved in abnormal cases. Quite a number of obstructed labours are admitted, usually have to be Caesars, some ruptured uteri, and patients have died before they could be taken to the Theatre.

The M.O. sees every patient after admission when possible, and is immediately called to all abnormal.

#### Night Duty.

The night staff consists of European Sister-in-Charge, Non-Europeans, one Midwife, six pupil Midwives, and

until midnight, four European Medical Students. All staff have one night off duty weekly, the Sister one and a half nights. The pupils are placed one in each large Ward, one for Side Wards and premature nursery, two in Labour Ward. Swabbing is done 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. Normal feeding 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., premature babies two or three-hourly as ordered. Temperatures taken from 3 a.m. and also four-hourly, there are also penicillin injections and four-hourly medicines throughout the night. A round is done as soon as possible after the report is taken, but if the Labour Ward is busy, this has to be delayed.

The monthly numbers for night deliveries, is never less than 230. It is considered to be a quiet night when there are seven or less deliveries, a busy one, up to 16. There have been occasions when 27 deliveries have taken place in 24 hours. Pupil Midwives repair first degree tears, Students and M.O.'s more serious ones. It is remarkable there are not more tears, as very few patients understand English, and very few European staff understand native languages, and the Pupil Midwives are not noted for patience. Primips, breech and first face, have been delivered with intact perineum when a multip 5 has had a tear through careless handling.

Owing to so many patients being admitted without attending Ante-Natal, and also positive V.D., upon admission the patient's vulva is first examined for sores; if present, the patient is immediately transferred to the V.D. Ward. After delivery, every patient is Catheterised to assist involution, and when possible, is kept in the Labour Ward at least one hour after delivery. Accommodation is often so strained that up to six beds have to be put in the corridor for deliveries, but patients needing special care are always put in the two-bedded room as it worries other women when they see a quarter-hour or half-hour Maternal pulse and foetal heart chart put up.

There is a good percentage of breech presentations, the M.O. is usually present, but often allows the pupil to deliver and the Sister to conduct, but frequently delivers a primip himself.

A macerated foetus is a frequent occurrence, also premature labours; threatened abortions are not admitted. Twins are frequent, triplets about once a year, Agelops occasionally, and Anencaphaletics more rare than they used to be. Stillbirths, owing to V.D. principally, used to be 30 per cent.

H. TONG.

With wonderful deathless ditties  
We build up the World's great cities,  
And out of a fabulous story  
We fashion an empire's glory;  
One man with a dream, at pleasure,  
Shall go forth and conquer a crown;  
And thee with a new song's measure  
Can trample a Kingdom down.

9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B.

**Safeguard your linen from loss**  
by using

**JOHN BOND'S**  
MARKING INK

As supplied to H.M. Government Depts., Hospitals, Municipal Boards, L.C.C., and all large users.

From 1 oz. to a gallon jar.

John Bond (London) Ltd., 74, Southgate Rd., London, N.1  
For your personal use from all Stationers and Chemists.  
8d. and 1/10 (family pack), including tax.

9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)